

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/080,475

Examiner

Brian J. Sines

Applicant(s)

SONI ET AL.

Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed 2/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with M. Fejer on 5/3/2006 and 5/15/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1 – 6 have been canceled.

Claim 7: A method for measuring release rates of contaminants in at least one of a fast mode and a slow release mode comprising the steps of:

introducing at least one volatile liquid sample into a transparent reactor vessel comprising sealable means for introducing said at least one volatile liquid sample into said transparent reactor vessel and sealing said at least one volatile liquid sample in said transparent reactor vessel, at least one sorbent contained within said transparent reactor vessel, and a separation means for maintaining a separation between said at least one sorbent and said at least one volatile liquid sample in said transparent reactor vessel, whereby substantially zero headspace is maintained within said transparent reactor vessel;

passing at least one solvent soluble constituent present in said at least one volatile liquid sample through said separation means, resulting in sorption of said at least one solvent soluble constituent by said at least one sorbent; [and]

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removing said at least one solvent soluble constituent from said at least one sorbent through said separation means[.]; and

measuring the amount of said at least one soluble constituent removed from said at least one sorbent, and then determining the release rates of contaminants comprising of said at least one solvent soluble constituent in at least one of a fast release mode and a slow release mode.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 – 13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 7, the cited prior art neither teach nor fairly suggest a method for measuring release rates of contaminants in at least one of a fast mode and a slow release mode comprising the steps of:

introducing at least one volatile liquid sample into a transparent reactor vessel comprising sealable means for introducing at least one volatile liquid sample into the transparent reactor vessel and sealing the volatile liquid sample in the transparent reactor vessel, at least one sorbent contained within the transparent reactor vessel, and a separation means for maintaining a separation between the sorbent and the volatile liquid sample in the transparent reactor vessel, whereby substantially zero headspace is maintained within the reactor vessel;

passing at least one solvent soluble constituent present in the volatile liquid sample through the separation means, resulting in sorption of the solvent soluble constituent by the sorbent;

removing the solvent soluble constituent from the sorbent through the separation means; and

measuring the amount of said at least one soluble constituent removed from said at least one sorbent, and then determining the release rates of contaminants comprising of said at least one solvent soluble constituent in at least one of a fast release mode and a slow release mode.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Sines whose telephone number is (571) 272-1263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (11 AM - 8 PM EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Hines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".